

Summary

- After a 'long and winding road', we now have a fairly complete set of new 'Climate Divisions' that are based on statistical associations rather than non-climate attributes.
- Within each new climate division, one can pick those stations that are best related to the divisional average to create easily updated climate indices, useful to both the climate monitoring community as well as for climate prediction verification.
- While current SNOTEL sites are not included in the joint temperature & precipitation divisions, they are part of the precipitation-only divisions, and we aim to include them in the joint divisions as well.

Next Steps

- Deal with 5% unassigned stations, including SNOTEL (assign to closest new climate division (corr)?);
- Sensitivity to changing temporal resolution (pentads)?
- In regions of high station density, as well as clear gradients in the station means, add "subdivisions" for further differentiation based on 1st moment statistics (seasonal cycle of T&P)?



New Climate Divisions for Monitoring
and Predicting Climate in the U.S.

Klaus Wolter, NOAA-ESRL